

MINUTES ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL

Greenville, NC
June 23, 2003

The Greenville, Rocky Mount and Wilson City Councils met in a joint meeting on the above date at 8:00 AM at Pinetops United Methodist Church. The meeting was called to order and everyone was welcomed to the meeting by Mayor Fred Turnage of Rocky Mount. The following elected and appointed officials were present.

Greenville

Mayor Robert D. Parrott
Mayor Pro-Tem Ric Miller
Council Member Mildred A. Council
Council Member Ray Craft
Council Member Pat Dunn
Council Member Rose H. Glover
Council Member Chip Little
City Manager Marvin W. Davis
City Clerk Wanda T. Elks
City Attorney David A. Holec

Rocky Mount

Mayor Fred Turnage
Council Member Chris Miller
City Manager Steve Raper
City Attorney Jep Rose

Wilson

Mayor Bruce Rose
Council Member A. P. Coleman
Council Member Bill Blackman IV
Council Member Robert Thaxton
City Attorney Jim Cauley
Becky Davis, Interim City Clerk
City Manager Ed Wyatt

Other Officials

Senator Tony Moore
Senator A. B. Swindell
Representative Bill Daughtride, Jr.
Representative Charles Johnson

Representative Marian McLawhorn
Representative Joe Tolson
Representative Edith Warren
Ann Lichtner (Governor's Office)
Mayor C. B. Cobb, Jr. (Pinetops)
Town Administrator Gregory Bethae (Pinetops)
Former North Carolina Supreme Court Judge Phil Carlton
Andy Romanet (General Counsel, North Carolina League of Municipalities)
Jesse Tilton (CEO, Electricities)
Estherine Davis (Governmental Affairs Specialist, Electricities)
Malcolm Green (General Manager, Greenville Utilities Commission)

Mayor Turnage welcomed the group to the meeting, thanked the Pinetops United Methodist Church for allowing the group to use the church, and thanked the City of Wilson for sponsoring the breakfast.

Mayor Rose explained that the purpose of this meeting is for the group to come together to meet one another and to discuss issues of common interest and to speak to the legislators about General Assembly issues important to the towns and cities.

Mayor Parrott asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Everyone present was introduced and brief comments were given by some of the legislators. The three cities were commended for having this joint meeting to discuss similar interests. It was expressed that this is the first time any of them remember having three major cities east of Interstate 95 to pull together toward achieving common goals.

Former North Carolina Supreme Court Judge Phil Carlton stated that he is a Pinetops native who co-founded the Foundation for the Renewal of Eastern North Carolina. He told the group that the east needs to be marketed as a whole unit "as a good place to work and live" to potential business relations. The cities need to pool their resources together to work toward the good of the region.

Mayor Rose thanked the legislators for last year's action on sales tax and asked them to keep in place the hold harmless provisions for those cities and counties adversely affected by a loss of new revenue from the net of inventory reimbursements and sales tax.

City Attorney Holec reviewed legislative activities that the three cities are particularly interested in, such as the potential expiration on July 1 of the state half-cent sales tax that would result in a large revenue loss. He stressed that the three cities want to assure that loss does not trickle down and adversely affect local governments as the State searches for money to make up the shortage. The Clean Water Trust Fund is also a common concern of the cities, and it is hoped that it will be funded as much as possible. Economic development, transportation and revenue issues were the main source of concern. He expressed appreciation to all of the elected officials for their work on the cities' behalf.

Representative Tolson assured those present that the hold harmless funds are in the budget plan drawn by both the House and Senate because they would have received more from the sales tax than the reimbursements. He stated that, regarding the Clean Water Trust fund, the Senate budget plan provides \$70 million more to the fund than does the House spending plan. The Senate funding is from tax increases on alcohol and cigarettes. There are not enough votes in the House to pass the tax increases.

Senator Swindell informed the group that he is Chair of the General Governmental Appropriations Committee and that there will be alternate methods of payment so that a budget can be passed. He encouraged the people present to work toward bringing small businesses to eastern North Carolina.

Mayor Parrott spoke about how by helping one city, all eastern cities are helped since so many people live in one place and commute to work in another.

Mayor Turnage reiterated that three of the top issues important to these three cities represented are economic development, transportation and revenue sources for cities. The group has to communicate and be cooperative if they wish to get more done for eastern North Carolina. He thanked the legislators for what they do and suggested that another meeting such as this one be held in the future.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Turnage at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda T. Elks, CMC
City Clerk